Date: May 5, 1994 BQC-94-034

To: **Nursing Homes** NH FDD 15 Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled

Hospitals HOSP 13 **Ambulatory Surgical Center** ASC 3

From: Judy Fryback, Director

Bureau of Quality Compliance

Subject: Life Safety Code Regional Program Letter No. 94-03 on Casters on Beds

Enclosed is a copy of Life Safety Code Regional Program Letter 94-03 which transmits interpretive guideline update dealing with casters on beds. We are also including copies of pages taken from the 1991 Life Safety Code (LSC) Handbook.

This Regional Program Letter indicates that for federal purposes, the requirements of the 1967, 1973, 1981 and 1985 LSC for bed casters will no longer be enforced. This decision is based on the changes made in the 1991 and 1994 edition of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) LSC sections 31-4 through 31-4.2.3.

The Bureau will waive the requirements of the referenced Life Safety Codes in Wisconsin Administrative Code HSS 132 as they pertain to the requirement for casters on all beds.

Please note, however, that survey staff from the Bureau of Quality Compliance will be expected to review the evacuation plans and the training of staff to ensure that patients/residents/clients will be provided with appropriate action in a fire situation. Facilities should review the individual needs of their residents to determine if sufficient staff are available at all hours of operation to adequately evacuate residents.

Please share this information with the appropriate staff. Direct any questions you may have to Stephen D. Schlough, P.E., Chief, Hospital and Health Services Section at (608) 266-3878.

JF/SDS/JJF/jh 12658.nm

cc: -BQC Staff

-Office of Legal Counsel

-Ann Haney, DOH Admin.

-Kevin Piper, BHCF Dir.

-HCFA, Region V

-Illinois State Agency

-Ohio State Agency

-Michigan State Agency

-Indiana State Agency

-Minnesota State Agency

-WI Coalition for Advocacy

-Serv. Employees Intn'l Union

-WI Counties Assn.

-WI Assn. of Homes & Serv/Aging

-WI Health Info. Mgmt. Assn.

-Mark Bunge, BPH

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-Renal Dialysis Network

-Commission on Geriatric Health

-WI Health Care Association

-WI Assn. of Medical Directors

-Admin., Division of Care and Treatment

Facilities

-WI Assn. of Hospital SW and Discharge

Planners

-Bd. on Aging & Long Term Care

-Bur. of Design Prof., DRL

-Bureau of DD Services

-WI Hospital Association

-LTC BQC Memo Subscribers

-Non-LTC BQC Memo Subscribers

Department of Health & Human Services Health Care Financing Administration Region V 105 West Adams Street 15th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60603-6201

Refer to: CR24

April 1994

LIFE SAFETY CODE REGIONAL PROGRAM LETTER NO. 94-03

Subject: CASTERS ON BEDS

The purpose of this program letter is to transmit a Life Safety Code (LSC) interpretive update with respect to casters on beds. To continue our efforts to assure consistent application of the LSC requirements across our region, please share the enclosed update with your Fire Authorities and relevant State surveyor staff.

If you have any questions, please contact our Regional Engineer, Winston Dawson, at (312) 353-2852.

/s/ Winston Dawson Regional Engineer Survey & Certification Review Branch Division of Health Standards & Quality /s/ Charles Bennett
Branch Chief
Survey & Certification Review Branch
Division of Health Standards & Quality

Enclosure